CLAIM LISTING

Applicants request that, pursuant to this amendment, the following listing of claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A method of dynamically and automatically adjusting a speech output rate to match a speech input rate, comprising the steps of:

    receiving a speech input;

    computing a speech input rate from the speech input;

    determining whether a type of speech output to be provided at the speech output rate is text-to-speech or recorded speech output; and

    dynamically adjusting the speech output rate to match the speech input rate, wherein the speech output rate is adjusted based upon the type of speech output;

    wherein, if the type of speech is recorded, determining whether alternate text is available, and if alternate text is available, counting the alternate text available from a recorded output and determining an audio file length to compute a default output rate which is used to adjust a recorded output rate to match the input speech rate.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of adjusting a rate of text-to-speech synthesis to match the speech input rate if the type of speech output is text-to-speech.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of obtaining an output word count from a transcription of a recorded

speech output and determining an audio file length to compute a default output rate which is used to adjust a recorded output rate to match the input speech rate when the type of speech is recorded and alternate text is unavailable.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compute the speech input rate comprises the step of computing a running average of the rates computed for the last n utterances of the speech input.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of feeding back an estimate of the speech input rate to a speech production mechanism to adjust the speech output rate.

8.-19. (Cancelled)